

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF COMMISSIONER MARK KLISZEWSKI

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Commissioner Mark Kliszewski of the Alameda County Superior Court. The public admonishment concerns Commissioner Kliszewski permitting court staff members to routinely make offensive and inappropriate comments, some of which related to race, gender, and sexual conduct, about parties and their family members in the courtroom when court was not in session. Staff members also made racial jokes and engaged in sexual banter in Commissioner Kliszewski's courtroom. Commissioner Kliszewski's tolerance of these remarks, by sometimes laughing at them and failing to take sufficient corrective action to stop them, violated his duty to be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants and others with whom he deals in an official capacity, and to require similar conduct of his staff (canon 3B(4)), and his duty to require staff and courtroom personnel under his direction to observe appropriate standards of conduct and to refrain from manifesting bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, or political affiliation in the performance of their official duties (canon 3C(3)). Commissioner Kliszewski also made numerous insulting and derogatory remarks about a court interpreter to other court staff, some in the interpreter's presence. In determining to impose public discipline in this matter, the commission took into account Commissioner Kliszewski's prior discipline, imposed by the Alameda County Superior Court.

The public admonishment is available on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions") and at the commission's office. Commissioner Kliszewski is represented by Attorney James A. Murphy of San Francisco.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers and six public members. The chairperson is Hon. Ignazio J. Ruvolo of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District. Commission member Ms. Mary Lou Aranguren is recused from this matter.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.